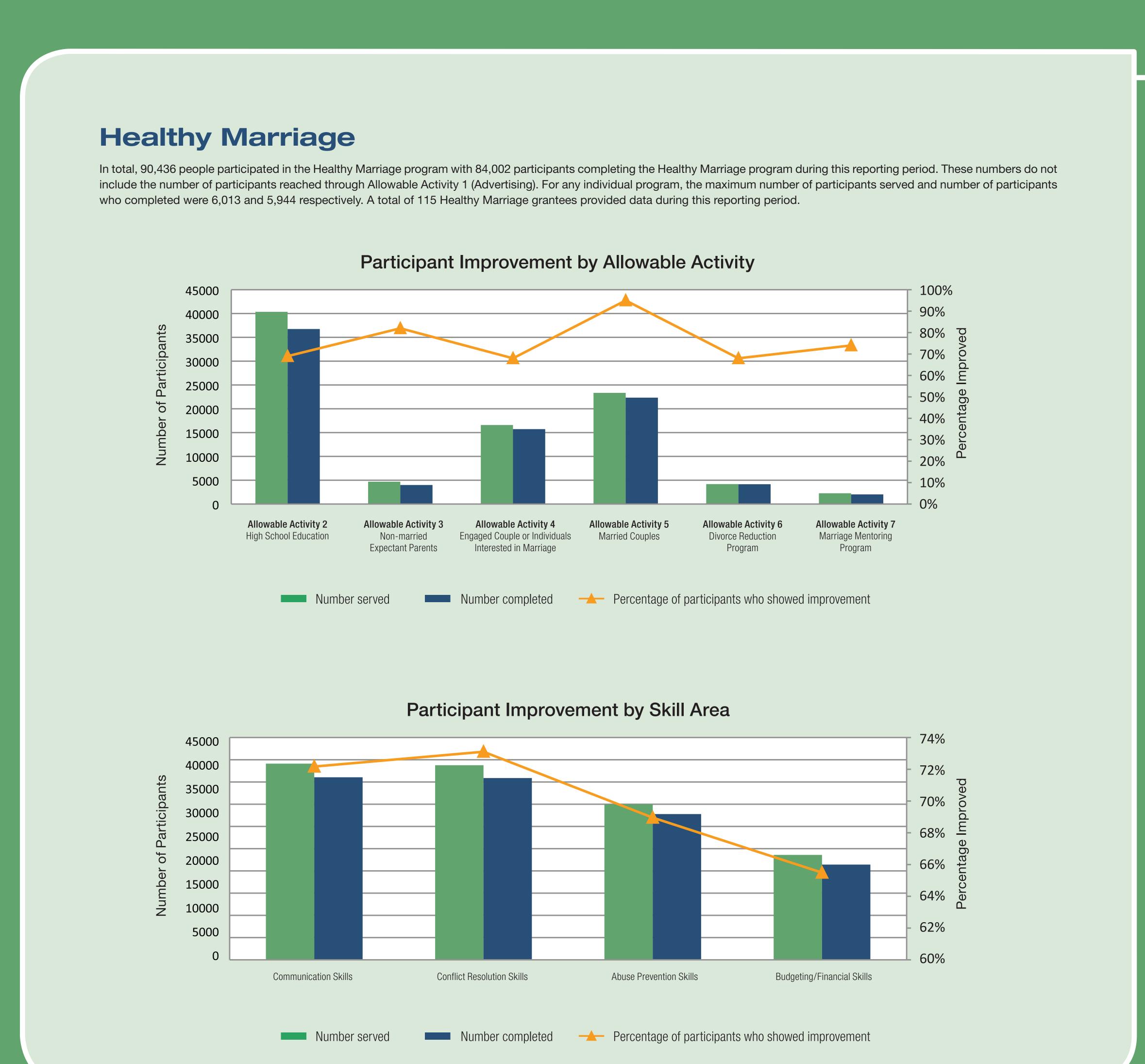
# Program Assessment Rating Tool / Performance Measurement

October 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010 Data Collection



# — Second Collection —

#### **Need for Performance Measures**

With the passing of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) in 1993, measuring the performance of programs and activities has become a priority of the Federal government. In 2001, as a part of the President's Management Agenda, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) developed the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) to measure the performance of individual programs, rather than agency performance, as accomplished under GPRA. The goals of PART are to inform agency and OMB budget decisions, establish accountability, and assist with program improvements.

The PART review consists of 25 questions divided into four parts: Program Purpose and Design, Strategic Planning, Program Management, and Results. Several of these questions are about the program's performance measurement and data collection processes. OMB scores and rates each program as Effective, Moderately Effective, Adequate, or Ineffective. If a program does not have performance measures data, it may also be designated as Results Not Demonstrated, regardless of the total score. It was OFA's goal to establish and begin collecting data on Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs in preparation for such a review and for general reporting to Congress and the Administration about program outcomes and accomplishments.

#### The Measures

## For the Healthy Marriage grantees, the approved measures included:

- Number of participants served and completed in total and in each Allowable Activity;
- Number of participants served and completed improving Healthy Marriage skills (communication, conflict resolution, abuse prevention, and budgeting);
- Number of participants served and completed improving attitudes toward marriage or commitment to their own marriage;
   Number of participants served and completed improving their relationship with their spouse, fiancé, co-parent, or significant other;
- Advertising purchased and contacts made by purchased or donated advertising campaigns focused on marital stability and health.

#### For the Responsible Fatherhood grantees, the approved measures included:

- Number of participants in total and in each Authorized Activity;
- Number of participants improving Healthy Marriage skills (i.e., communication, conflict resolution, abuse prevention and budgeting);
- Number of participants with improved attitudes toward marriage or improved commitment to their marriage;
- Number of participants with improved parenting skills and a stronger commitment to fatherhood;
- Number of participants with improved knowledge of child support;
- Number of participants improving their relationship with their children and the amount of contact they have with their children;
  Number of participants improving economic and financial skills (i.e., job training, job search, financial planning, and job retention
- skills); and
- Number of participants with increased earnings.

### Reliability and Validity

- The first two PART datasets indicate positive impact on program participants and improvement in the participant outcomes.
- The collection of the five rounds of data expected by the end of this grant will minimize any threats to the reliability and validity of the data and allow for stronger conclusions and trends to be drawn.
- The PART results validate the success of the grantees and impact of the programs.
- The results can also be used as benchmarks for future grants.
- The reliability and validity of the percentage estimates of participants improving in content and allowable/authorized areas are threaten by issues such as lag, low response rates from participants, small sample sizes and limited data collection, differences in how improvement and concepts are measured, and instrumentation quality.



